

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NOP FOLDING

### Abstract of the Invention

**[00054]** . Embodiments of an apparatus, method, and system provide for no-operation instruction (“NOP”) folding such that information regarding the presence of a NOP instruction in the instruction stream is folded into a buffer entry for another instruction. Information regarding a target NOP instruction is thus maintained in a buffer entry associated with an instruction other than the target NOP instruction. For at least one embodiment, NOP information is folded into entries of a re-order buffer.